

**Chief of Naval Operations  
Adm. Jonathan Greenert  
Delivers remarks at the USNA Graduation  
29 May 2012**

**Admiral Greenert:** Thank you very much, Captain Clark. Thanks, Bob. Governor O'Malley. Secretary Panetta, great remarks. Secretary Mabus, thank you, sir. Congressman Whitman, nice to see you. And of course my partner, General Amos. It's good to be up on the stage with you again. Admiral Miller, well done. I like that "damn the torpedoes" thing. You've got the right service selection, I got that right, huh? Dean Phillips, it's good to see you, sir.

2012, how are you all doing today?

Listen, we talked a couple of weeks ago and I like you. I like you so much that the full text of my remarks are currently posted on my Facebook and you can read the full text. I have a few, just a few points I would like to make on your behalf.

First of all, to you 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants, welcome. You are joining a great partnership. As General Amos said, we stand shoulder to shoulder. You are entering a great institution in the United States Marine Corps. I very much appreciate that institution and I stand beside it. You join an unbeatable naval team. As Secretary Mabus said, we are the away team. We present the Secretary of Defense and the President of the United States the off-shore option.

Now as we talked about a few weeks ago, things are going to come fast. You saw your predecessors, you saw where they are. Secretary Mabus mentioned, it will be months and you'll be there. I ask you to go out there and listen and learn, and then you've got to lead.

I just have a few, just three little things I'd like to pass to you.

First, something professional. Guard your integrity. No one can take away your integrity. You have to surrender it. Trust me, this will be your number one challenge.

Number two, health. You've got to figure this out today. Wear sunscreen. Trust me on this. It takes over 20 years for the damage of the sun to manifest. Trust me on this one.

Number three, a little bit for your life. This is the only order I'm going to give you today, but it is my order. Every one of you, I want you to call, text, email, write, or send a carrier pigeon to your mothers. Huh? A mother's unconditional love is one of the few guarantees that you're going to get in life and while in the Navy.

Let me leave you with six simple words. These are our tenets out there in the fleet.

Warfighting first. Operate Forward . And Be Ready.

I'm honored to commission you. Graduates to be commissioned in the United States Navy, please rise.

Please raise your right hand.

Having been appointed an ensign in the United States Navy, to rank from 29 May 2012, do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic, that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, that you take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on what you are about to enter, so help you God.

[I do].

Congratulations. Welcome to my wardroom.

# # # #